

THE SOULARD SCHOOL

COMMUNITY NEWS

Teaching Us What It Takes To Be Ourselves

“[They] are also the ones who, in seeing how and what most people don’t see, teach us what it takes to be ourselves, what it feels like to be someone other than ourselves, and what it means to be a human being.”

- Maria Popova

Recapping this school year, I would say we have all learned more about ourselves and our children than we knew possible. And, if we are being honest, ever hoped to. Still, **the most powerful moments are when we see ourselves or our experiences through the eyes of our children, our students.**

I have always talked about how emotional learning can feel. As adults, we don’t remember all the feelings we had about elementary school. When we look back, it becomes more generalized - I liked school or I didn’t like school. I liked this part of the day, that grade or that teacher, that one year. I’ve often asked parents to picture their child walking into the building or their classroom in the morning. Can you see the sense of purpose they carry with them as they do? Now imagine it is time for math. Your child is about to learn a completely new concept, be challenged in a completely different way. Now imagine that for just about every hour of every day and keep repeating. **Children show up.** There are days that are easier than others but **they meet this experience, school, with a welcoming energy and try and try again.**

After this year, you don’t need to close your eyes to envision this picture. You lived it in a way that will forever change how you empathize and talk with your child about their school day. How you ask them questions about their homework or interactions with friends will have a new twist. **While it has likely been one of the hardest years you have experienced as a parent, you have tapped into your child's world** in a way that doesn’t pull from your dwindled memories but from a living, shared experience.

This heightened awareness of our shared experience, and what is needed as we look forward to our full return next school year, reminds me of the importance of our model. We strive to provide learning in a way that feels natural, builds confidences of all kinds, and where student (and teacher and parent) insights and experiences are welcome. In a sense, **we need to be ourselves again but in a way that doesn't gloss over or lose sight of the important lessons we learned during this challenging year.**

And as they tend to do, our students - your children - will find a way to be our teachers, partners and guides for how to set our goals, define success and dig deep to know ourselves. With confidence, I know when we come back together for the 2021-22 school year, we will have what it takes to be ourselves.

- Sarah Christman, Executive Director



Scenes from the last day of school for the 2nd grade Alchemy class and Kindergarten Mums class.

The 3rd Grade plant sale was a tremendous success!

Thank you to all who supported us. We truly love growing plants, learning about them, and creating business opportunities at our school. All of the students grew a particular plant, learning about its needs, patterns of growth, and unique qualities. We also used the plant sale to support our understanding and study of money and how to manipulate it through our transactions. We also made posters, allowing us to connect our learning to literacy.

Thanks again to everyone for all your support!



VIVE LES PLANTES!

Notes from Chef Sarah Kate...

I am feeling very optimistic about being able to have our parent & grandparent volunteers return to the lunch program for the 2021/22 school year. If you have volunteered in the kitchen before, we want you back! If you're new to the school and looking for a fun way to connect with the community, joining the kitchen helpers is a great way to do that.

We are looking for volunteers who can help with lunch between 11am and 1pm Monday-Friday. We need volunteers who can commit to work one day a week consistently.

Duties include plating and serving food, some minor food preparation (slicing fruit, tossing salads), set up of the lunch room, clean up and dishwashing. You'll get to know the staff and students, observe our unique Culinary Arts program in action and lunch is included!

Contact Sarah Kate (sarahkate.buckles@soulardschool.org) now to join the Kitchen Helpers Committee.

School starts in August, training days will be announced for the week before school starts. Come cook with us!

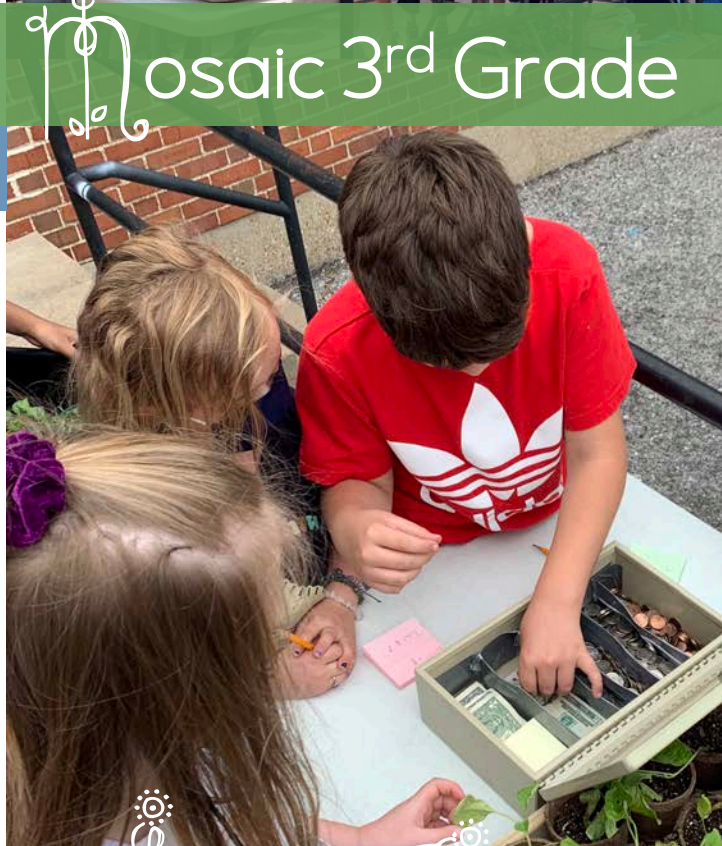
Our school community is looking for families to volunteer for Chicken Care this summer.

Families are asked to sign up for a week at a time. Duties include daily feeding and watering of our flock, monthly team coop cleaning and general wrangling of our sweet girls.

BONUS: you get to take home any eggs you collect the week you volunteer!

Don't have any experience with animal husbandry? No problem! We can teach you and will send you a link to a short chicken care video featuring Soulard School Students.

Contact Sarah Kate (sarahkate.buckles@soulardschool.org) to join the Summer Chicken Care Crew.



Mosaic 3rd Grade

Plant Sale

STEAMFEST

This year's STEAMFest Theme was based on books (photo #10). We asked classroom teachers to share with us stories that they read in their classrooms that were popular with their students. We created 8 stations that had activities that incorporate the STEAM themes to bring those books to life. This year's STEAMFest took place in Tower Grove Park on a Friday afternoon since to allow all students and families to attend at the same time.



STEAMFEST



ACTIVITIES BASED ON THE FOLLOWING BOOKS

PREVIOUS PAGE

Kindergarten: *Jabari Tries* by Gaia Cornwall (Engineering, Art), photo #1; *Elmer* by David McKee, photo #2.
1st Grade: (Science, Art) *Wayside School is Falling Down* by Louis Sachar, photo #4; *Ada Twist, Scientist* by Andrea Beaty, photos #3, 5, 6.
2nd Grade: *Cat Ninja* by Matthew Cody, photos #7, 8, 9.

THIS PAGE

3rd Grade: *Journals of Lewis and Clark* edited by Bernard DeVoto, photos #11, 12.
4th Grade: (Science) *The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown, photo #16.
5th Grade: (Math and Technology) *The Unwanteds* by Lisa McMann, photos #14, 15.

Cooking with the Grandparents



On Friday May 7th the students of The Soulard School welcomed their grandparents to our online Culinary Arts classes.

Family members from all over the country joined us live via Zoom for a cook-along class featuring recipes sent in by grandparents.

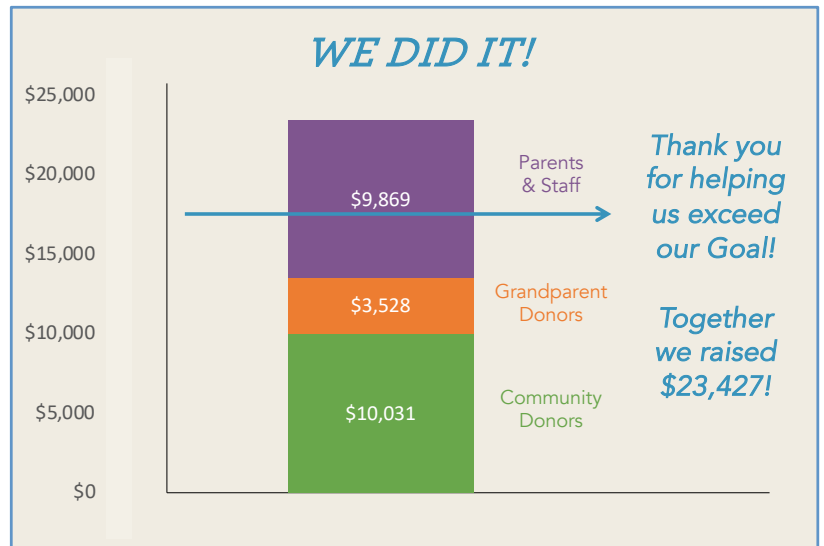
We made delicious blueberry oatmeal pancakes, amazing peanut butter cookies and a magical frozen desert called "Dragon Bones!"

Building avenues for learning across our communities and bringing people together is at the heart of our Culinary Arts and Nutrition program and we were so pleased to have so many grandparents join us.

Thank you Soulard School Grandparents, for all you do. We look forward to cooking with you again in the future!



WE WERE INSPIRED AND TOUCHED BY THE OUTPOURING OF SUPPORT TO OUR CAMPAIGN. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR INVESTMENT IN OUR COMMUNITY. OUR GRATITUDE IS OVERFLOWING!



We are a SMALL BUT MIGHTY community and your participation in this campaign is proof. Whether you created a campaign page for us or directly donated, we consistently stayed in the top 25 list of the Leaderboard out of 1000's of organizations and that is due to YOU.

Thank you to The Soulard School and Soulard Education Center Boards' generous giving and Challenge Fund that set a goal of \$17,500.

We went above and BEYOND! We raised a total of \$23,427 on Give STL Day, which helped us raise a whopping total of \$40,927!!



CONGRATULATIONS



SaKeya

(The College School)

Henry

(Kairos Academies)

Nico

(Hixson Middle School)

Brooke

(Kairos Academies)

Stella

(Kairos Academies)

Anna

Emma

(The College School)

Sophia

(Kairos Academies)

Clyve

(Kairos Academies)

Clyde

(Kairos Academies)

Zack

(Kairos Academies)

Saxon

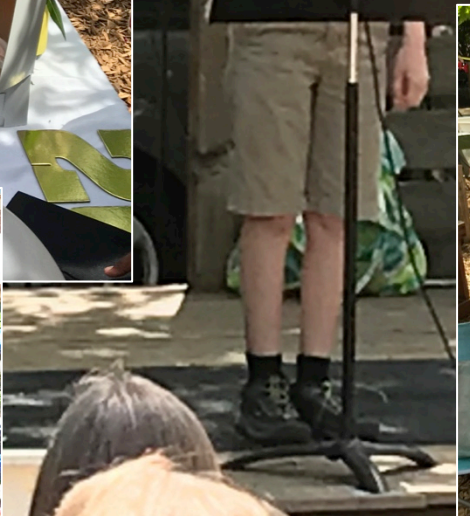
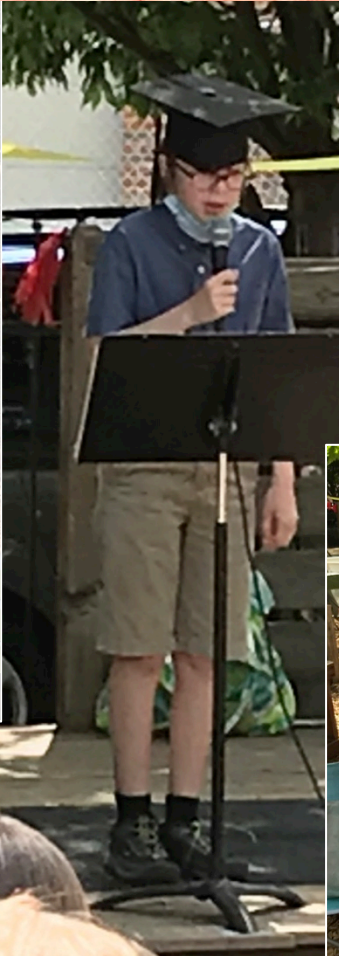
(Kairos Academies)



2021 TSS GRADUATES



CONGRATIS





Mums Kindergarten Environment Study

The Mums kindergarten classes studied ecosystems this Spring and became interested in how different animals lived and worked together.

Mums discovered how animals and humans both change and adapt to survive in their environments. Different characteristics that assist in survival also help us classify animals.


Mums visited the St. Louis Zoo and the St. Louis Aquarium during Friday meet-ups to get a first-hand look at some of the animals they had been studying.


Some Mums became particularly passionate about how humans have impacted the environment in detrimental ways.

They decided to raise awareness on what we can do every day to lessen our carbon footprints.

They created informational cards with tips on being environmentally conscious. The cards also included drawings and facts about the Arctic Fox who has been threatened by the actions of humans.

The class raised over \$150 with these cards and symbolically adopted an Arctic Fox from WWF.





On behalf of

Mums

an Arctic Fox

has been adopted through World Wildlife Fund

J Sotelo
Jessica Sotelo
Director, Membership

www.worldwildlife.org

One of our favorite traditions got pushed from fall to spring this year. Due to our hybrid schedule, we did 2 Bike-to-School Days in May.

Families met up around the city to bike to school together. Those who couldn't bike brought their bikes, scooters or skateboards to school by car, and everybody enjoyed a special wheeled recess.

We closed one block of 11th Street to give the students more room to bike, while the 3-5th graders had the option to go on a special bike trip to Fremont Park.

Thanks to Alderman Jack Coatar for help with street closure, and to BWorks for loaning several bikes for student use.



BIKE TO SCHOOL



We are reimagining summer this year to provide a blend of our usual fun, laid-back Camp Soulard and the academic support many students need after the disruptions caused by the pandemic.

At this time all summer programs are fully enrolled!

Little Camp - this fun pre-k camp will offer 8 weeks of learning and play, including water play and walks to the park for our youngest students.

Summer School - this tuition-free half-day program in June will help students make up for lost time and strengthen the academic skills they'll need for next school year. PM Camp will help provide support working families with afternoon activities for Summer School participants.

Camp Soulard - we're just doing 4 weeks of Camp Soulard in July and August, but they'll be great, with board game themed activities resulting in big summer fun for our elementary campers.

THRIVE LEGACY PROJECT

Rain (or snow!) or shine... our 5th grade Thrivers were determined to dig holes and plant trees and bushes as a portion of their legacy project for the school. Thanks to their great effort (excavating bricks and concrete along the way!) and optimism, as well as a generous grant from our partners at Gateway Greening, this year's graduating class was able to plant 8 blackberry bushes, 2 Asian pear trees, an apricot tree, and a peach tree.

We look forward to remembering these incredible students as The Soulard School community enjoys delicious fruits in years to come!



Thank you Gateway Greening!